

Today, the House is debating a particularly bad bill, seeking to rewrite the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Act is one of the primary achievements of the environmental movement and has led to the protection of many animals, including the Bald Eagle. The bill under consideration seeks to make it more difficult to designate “critical habitats,” which are needed to prevent the extinction of so many species. It also would begin a new type of federal entitlement spending, deepening our debt. This bill is just plain wrong. Many Western Democrats and Republicans support the bill while most Eastern Republicans and Democrats oppose it. I am strongly allied with the environmental community in opposing this bill. Whatever happens today, prospects for this legislation are dim in the Senate. This misguided effort should be defeated, never to come back. Let's enforce the Endangered Species Act as it is.